

# THE VARSITY.

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TORONTO, JANUARY 13th, 1904

THE VARSITY greets its readers at the opening of the year with every good wish for their prosperity. We know that the compliment will be returned, and so are encouraged in taking up the work of editing the University magazine. It is no light matter to succeed in office the long line of men who have occupied the position. So many of them have been gifted with exceptional ability, and have done such good work that it would be the height of presumption to declare any intention of improving upon what they have done. The duties of the office have been assumed with pleasure—the honor and responsibility are taken up with diffidence. The kind commendation of the retiring chief and the assurance of the loyal support of the Editorial Board have already gone a long way in establishing confidence in the result of the labor which will ungrudgingly be given to THE VARSITY during the next few months.

ON another page we publish an article on the late Jas. A. Tucker, B.A., with a cut made from a recent photograph. There are but few of his classmates now in the University, but the story of his eventful connection with THE VARSITY in '95 is known to every one. On the action taken on his outspoken criticisms of certain University matters while he was editor-in-chief of this journal, we have nothing to say. We merely desire to offer a tribute of respect to the man. If he was wrong he paid the penalty, and if he was right he found his vindication in the support given him by his fellow-students. Ten years have surely healed the old wounds, and no one will resent a reference to his memory. His years were few, but he lived them actively and earnestly. His loss is mourned by many friends, of

whom those who knew him in his college days are not the least numerous.

IN our High School days we were told of a young man who spent a holiday in a rural district in Quebec.

His descriptive writings dealing with what he saw and heard and published in this magazine won him a fellowship in an American university as soon as he had graduated. We cannot promise fellowships to all who will send us their compositions, but a whole list of benefits is bound to accrue from every bright and original article published in THE VARSITY. These benefits would be gained not only by the paper, but by the University, and particularly by the writers. THE VARSITY Office is open from twelve to one o'clock every day, and the post-box at the door receives any manuscripts left in it after office hours. Contributions may therefore be left at any time, and will always be welcome.

THE question of what should be done with the hockey team in view of their holiday trip to the "Soo," is a burning one just at present. The action of the O. H. A. in disqualifying them as amateurs is quite approved as within the rights of that organization. The standing of the club in the Intercollegiate League is, however, the matter of most supreme importance, and this will be determined in good time. We could wish that the occasion for putting the hockey team on trial had not arisen. The management might have squared themselves by declaring their intentions before undertaking their tour. As it now stands we await the decision of the Athletic Directorate as settling the affair satisfactorily.

THE *News* of January 8th contained a two-column article upon the question of College Fraternities, which demands certain comment. The discussion arises out of a meeting of the Board of Trustees held last week to consider the advisability of granting three of the fraternities aid and privileges similar to those granted the Kappa Alpha Society about two years ago. These privileges include permission to build a residence upon University property, the same to be exempt from rent and taxes, and the aid was in money at a low rate of interest, equal to half the cost of the building. Since these advantages were granted to one society it might seem nothing but fair that others should receive the same treatment. At the same time we cannot understand why small sections of the undergraduate body should be so materially assisted in the erection of comparatively luxurious quarters while the students as a whole are crying out for a suitable University residence. Against the proposed grants of free building sites and of financial aid we beg to protest. The land is required for the larger residence scheme, and the money is needed more than